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REPORT

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Bulgaria
SUBJECT	Economic - Five-Year Plan
HOW PUBLISHED	Book
WHERE PUBLISHED	Moscow
DATE PUBLISHED	1949
LANGUAGE	Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. 21 Dec 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Bolgariya na Puti k Sotsializmu, (Bulgaria on the Road to Socialism)
Gospolizdat.

The volume of production of heavy industry in the Five-Year Plan will increase to 682 percent of the 1939 total by 1953. The coal output in 1953 will be three times that of 1939, the ore output will be eight times as great, and non-metallic minerals, 21 times as great. Machine building will increase 65 times, and the metallurgical and electric industries will be literally created in the course of this Five-Year Plan. Electric power production in 1953 will be 221 percent greater than in 1948, and seven times greater than in 1939. More attention will be given to agricultural and transport machine building, the development of the chemical industry, and building material production. The national income will increase to 85 percent over 1948 and twice the 1939 figure.

In the field of agriculture, the Five-Year Plan contemplates a development of workers' cooperatives, the introduction of advanced farming methods and mechanization, and restrictions and subsequent liquidation of the capitalistic elements in the rural areas. Agricultural production will increase 59 percent over 1939, while vegetable growing will increase 62 percent, and animal husbandry, 44 percent.

The Five-Year Plan envisages acceleration of the rate of agricultural mechanization. The number of machine tractor stations will increase to 150, and the supply will increase to 10,000 tractors and a corresponding number of agricultural machines. The formation of scores of new state farms is being contemplated. On a voluntary basis, 60 percent of all farms will join in farm workers' cooperatives and turn out at least 60 percent of all agricultural production and 72 percent of all produced goods.

The planned total amount of capital investments for the 5-year period is 425 billion leva, most of which will be used for industrial development and electrification.

The most important new investments are: a lead and zinc plant, a metallurgical plant for ferrous metals, 2 machine-tool plants, a plant for tractor and automobile parts, 2 automotive-repair plants, 3 agricultural machine plants, a nitrogen-fertilizer plant, a soda plant, a coke combine, 10 lumber-processing combines, a number of railroads and highways, power stations, 80 machine tractor stations, 39 state farms, and a number of other important economic and cultural projects.

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The Five-Year Plan provides also for a substantial advance in the economic and cultural conditions of the Bulgarian working classes. Their purchasing power is to increase almost twofold in proportion to 1948. The number of wage-earners and employees will exceed one million by the last year of the plan, and the wage fund will grow rapidly, most of all in industry and the building trades. The income of peasants will improve substantially.

The annual per-capita consumption of agricultural commodities in 1953 will show the following increase over 1948:

Commodities	1953 (kg)	1948 (kg)
Grain products	336	284
Legumes	27.3	17
Meat	35	15.4
Animal fats	8.5	3.4
Vegetable Oils	6.9	2.5
Sugar	10	7.5

The flow of goods and commerce will show a corresponding increase.

The Bulgarian people are bound to find many social and economic difficulties in the realization of the plan. There is a noticeable shortage of electric power, machinery, and of some metals. The remnants of the shattered but not entirely liquidated exploiting classes will continue their resistance to the new social system. Many difficulties will also have to be overcome to unify the small, scattered private farms into large socialist enterprises.

The plan is based on close future collaboration between Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, and the people's democracies. Bulgaria participated in the economic conference of the Soviet Union and the people's democracies, held on 1 January 1949, which established the Council of Mutual Economic Aid. Its objectives are the exchange of economic experience, mutual technical assistance, and a large-scale mutual supply of raw materials, machines, equipment, etc. The Council will contribute in a large measure to the further development of the Bulgarian economy.

The first results of the Five-Year Plan illustrate these achievements. On 28 April 1949, the State Planning Commission published its report for the first quarter of 1949. It shows that total industrial production has met the quota by 99.7 percent. The mining industry met the quarterly plan 106.6 percent, and the processing industries, 101 percent. Coal production has increased 32 percent in comparison to the first quarter of 1948; lead production, 191 percent; and machine tools for metals, 167.5 percent. The production of agricultural machines has doubled, the output of power engines has increased 17 times. Goods of general use were also produced in increasing quantities, and bread prices were reduced in May, 1949.

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